

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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WINSTON, N. C.

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER,
WINSTON, N. C.

Winston, N. C., March 3, 1886.

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Make written contracts with your hired hands. Better have two good hands at good wages than three poor ones at half price.

Look out for the fellows who want to sell you some new and wonderful seed or plant. Load your shot-gun extra heavy, and keep the dog hungry.

All seed should be of the best. Seed of doubtful quality is dear at any price. A full, vigorous germ makes a strong plant and a shrunken or damaged one a weak plant, if it makes one at all.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER believes that every county seat in the State should be in communication or connected with some one of our great trunk lines of travel or transportation by rail. It believes that as soon as the lines, now in process of construction, are completed, it should become the fixed policy of our authorities to give the preference to the labor of convicts to such counties as would employ it in constructing such branch or connecting roads. Apart from this, it believes that our convicts should be hired to county authorities under proper restrictions and regulations to be matured by the Legislature, and made to improve our public roads. THE FARMER will have more to say on this important subject at an early day.

The Society of the American and Dairy Association under date, New York, February 23rd, to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—"The Convention was attended by representative men from over twenty States, and great enthusiasm and earnestness were manifested in strong resolutions favoring National legislation. It was resolved to ask Congress to pass a law putting the manufacture and sale of all imitations of butter under the control of the United States International Revenue Department, and that a tax of not less than ten cents per pound be imposed. As soon as we can formulate the demand of the Convention, they will be presented to Congress."

The remains of John B. Gough, the celebrated temperance orator, were interred at his old home in Boylston, Mass., last Wednesday. His was an eventful career. An unsuccessful mechanic, he became a strolling actor of little note, fell into drinking habits until he got down into the gutter; reformed and became one of the world's most eloquent and effective temperance advocates.

North Carolina has now three natives in the U. S. Senate—Ransom, Vance and Hawley. Before the war she had seven in the Senate at one time. She has also given birth to three Presidents of the United States—Jackson, Polk and Johnson; two Vice Presidents—Wiley P. Mangum and William R. King; four Secretaries of the Navy—John Branch, George E. Badger, William A. Graham and James C. Dobbin; and one Secretary of the Interior, Jacob Thompson.—Wilmington Star.

X BAD POLICY.

One of the first, if not the first things that the farmer should aim at is independence. By this we mean that he should have granaries and smoke houses of his own and not be dependent upon others for the bread and meat for his family or the grain or hay for his stock. The time was when great portions of the South depended for their supplies of meat, flour, &c., and feed for stock on the farms of the West, while Southern plantations, within the cotton belt, were given exclusively to the culture of cotton. As a reason for this it was alleged that under the old order of things before the war, it was cheaper to buy those things than it was to raise them. There are some people who entertain this idea yet, or at least they act upon it, for they stick to cotton, and buy meat and bread, buy grain and grass to feed the stock that work in the cotton fields. We will venture the assertion that there is not one in fifty of this kind of planters who is not as bad off at the end of the year as he was at the beginning, if not worse. As a matter of prudence no planter or farmer should put his sole reliance in any one crop as a specialty, but should so regulate the planting of his acres that if one should fail from natural causes, or be unremunerative in price, he would have another to fall back upon; but above all he should be sure to raise all his home supplies, and thus avoid the necessity of having to buy what he needs at a high price from the proceeds of his pet special crop sold at a low price, sometimes at a figure less than the actual cost of production, as has been the case with cotton within the past year. The farmer who relies upon one special crop, be it cotton, tobacco or anything else, speculates, takes his chances just as the man who goes on the exchange and puts his money into any of the speculative commodities with a view to selling again at an advanced price. He may hit and profit, largely, or miss and become bankrupt, or he may fail in one and succeed in another, and thus keep on his feet. But the farmer cannot afford to speculate, for loss to him is loss without means of recovery, it is the loss of a crop, the labor of a year, and perhaps necessitates debt and privation. With full granaries, plenty of bread and meat at home of his own raising, with plenty of feed for his stock raised upon his own acres if his special crop should disappoint him he has at least enough to meet his home requirements without going into debt, and if it be a success he is just that much the richer. At all events he is freed from the harassing cares and fears that beset the man whose bins and smoke houses are empty, and who depends upon the profits of his specialty to replenish them.

Raise all the cotton you can, all the tobacco you can, but be sure to raise also all the supplies you need for man or beast, and thus be independent of trade's caprice.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The New York Legislature is discussing the subject of a high license law for liquor saloons, ranging from \$100 to \$1000 a year, in accordance with the population of towns or cities where the saloons are located.

The chief cooks in the leading hotels in Philadelphia receive salaries ranging from \$1,200 to \$2,500 a year.

An intimate friend of General Hancock says, the General spent nearly all his salary, save what it took to support himself and wife, for charitable purposes, and did not leave more than \$10,000 worth of property all told, at the time of his death. There is a movement on foot to raise a fund for the benefit of his widow.

The Supreme Court of Indiana has affirmed the decision of a lower court to the effect that under the laws of that State, the Legislature has the right to limit the charges for telephone service.

The United States Senate has passed a bill appropriating \$250,000 for the erection of a monument to Gen. Grant in Washington City.

The dwelling house of Mr. Newton Sherrill, in Mt. Creek township, with a quantity of wheat and other property was burned last Saturday. Most of the furniture was saved, but the loss is over \$2,000 with no insurance.—Hickory Carolinian.

X STICK TO THE FARM.

Unless our memory is at fault the statistics of business failures show that about one out of thirty of the merchantile class of the large cities of this country makes a success, the other twenty-nine failing at some time in their career and becoming bankrupt. They may, perhaps for years, make money, handle large stocks, and be regarded as men of wealth, but in the long run adversity overtakes the great body of them and they go down even more rapidly than they rose. Look at the business directories of any of our large cities and note how few of the names you find that were most prominent in business circles ten or twenty years ago. New ones have taken their places to struggle along as they struggled, attain a measure of success, and then go down as they went down, to be followed in turn by others who will go the same way. The fickle goddess, Fortune, favors them for a time, and then she seems to take pleasure in destroying in a day the life-work she encouraged and the hopes she fostered. The ship she sent with fair winds from out the port and across the perilous sea, she drives upon the rocks in sight of the haven almost reached.

And yet how industriously, how hard, how tirelessly, early and late, many, nearly all, of those merchants worked to succeed, to win fortunes; how they studied and mastered their calling, kept posted on the drift of trade, not only in their own, but in other countries; how they studied and planned to sell as cheaply if not more cheaply than rival merchants of the same city, or rival merchants of other cities, for they had to do this or withdraw from trade.

The majority of these merchants, perhaps, were born upon the farm and left it when boys or young men, lured by the attractions of city life, or to seek the fortunes which they thought would not come fast enough upon the farm. If they had stuck to the farm and used the same intelligence, with one half the industry and hard work of brain and limb that the merchant's calling required, they would have earned money enough to be comfortable and independent, and have it in such a shape as not to be swept away in a day beyond the hope of recovery. They might not it is true have won as many dollars, for there is no field for speculation in the farm, but every year would have added something to their store, and the added years would have given them wealth to make them independent, and homes with comforts and refinements, homes not in mere tenure but homes in fact, homes for them, wife and children, not to be wrested from them, as the merchant's so often is, through unfortunate ventures, or the unwillingness or inability of creditors to pay. No; the farm may not be the speediest way to competence, but it is the happiest and the surest. Stick to the farm, boys, and strive to become good farmers, by study and application as you would have to study any other calling in which you expected to succeed.

THE TELEGRAPH.

The Washington correspondent of the Charlotte Observer, under date of 20th February, furnishes an interesting interview with Mr. Junius Lynch Clemmons, on his connection with the invention of the electric telegraph. Mr. Clemmons was born in the village of Clemmonsville, then in Rowan, now in Davidson county, in the year 1813. At the age of 18 he was sent to Randolph-Macon College, Virginia, where he graduated in 1837. In 1833 he attended lectures on chemistry and took much interest in the subject of electric currents, conceived the idea of the telegraphs drew a scheme which he submitted to some of his fellow students, who laughed at him as a visionary when he asserted that the time would come when men would converse across a continent by means of wires and galvanic batteries and that the inhabitants of different countries, separated by oceans, would so converse. Hearing of a scientist named Page, in Washington City, who took much interest in the subject of electricity, Mr. Clemmons wrote to him, giving his views, a diagram of the method he proposed, the manner of arranging and insulating the wires, and the al-

phabet to be used in the transmission of messages. To this letter he received no answer, and in despair that silence meant that this eminent scientist regarded the scheme as worthless, Mr. Clemmons gave no more thought to the subject, but turned his attention to the study of law, to which he afterwards devoted himself. Eleven years later, in 1844, a paragraph in the Washington Globe announced the fact that a company composed of Messrs. Page, Morse, Amos Kendall and Smith had made application to Congress for aid to enable them to erect an experimental telegraph wire between Washington and Baltimore. The method proposed was identical with the same as that communicated to Page by Clemmons eleven years before, which Page admitted in the Globe in reply to the charge of having appropriated the ideas from Clemmons, but excused himself for thus answering the letter by saying that he then thought there was nothing in it. The company was formed, got the aid asked from Congress, the wire was erected, messages transmitted, the telegraph was a demonstrated success and others reaped the rewards and honors that belonged to the modest North Carolinian. He had no disposition to contend for either and so let them reap their

A writer in the Asheville Citizen protests against the abominable quality of butter sold upon that market, and it is not oleomargarine either. He says that parties who make special arrangements procure excellent butter, but most of that which is put upon the market is unfit for mortals to eat.

Mr. A. A. McKethan, of Fayetteville, died on the 22d ult., aged 89 years. He was an upright, public spirited, big hearted man, who was always among the foremost in every good work for the advancement of his town, his section and State.

Maj. W. H. Bagley, Clerk of the Supreme Court of our State, died at his home in Raleigh on the 21st ult. He was Major of a battalion of Infantry during the war—was twice State Senator from the First District and was one of the most prominent Old Fellows in the State. He was Private Secretary to Gov. Worth and married his eldest daughter.

The pupils of the Bingham School, scattered all over the land, will sincerely mourn the death of Mrs. Robert Bingham, who died at her home on the 24th ult. She was a most estimable and lovable lady and her bereaved husband has the heartfelt sympathy of hundreds of friends throughout the State.

The Stuart "Washington" which was purchased in 1829 by Daniel Welfare from the president of Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, and which was sent here from Salem for sale, has been disposed of to the Library of Congress for \$1,200. It is said by artists who have examined it to be one of the very best of the portraits of Washington by Stuart. Incontestable proofs of its authorship were produced.

Dr. W. H. Whitehead, of Battleground, who was here Tuesday, says the tobacco area of '86 will show a large increase over last year. Individuals, he says, will plant less, but the number of tobacco raisers will be doubled. Had it not been for the tobacco crop last year in Nash county the Doctor thinks that the financial troubles of the people of that county would have been very great.—Tarboro Southerner.

Mr. C. S. Holleman, agent tells us that he has loaded and shipped from the Hickory depot, during this month, an average of four freight cars per day. On last Tuesday he shipped eight and a half cars. The goods shipped from here now are mostly wagons, building material, and other goods manufactured in the place.—Press.

THE FIGURES OF 31 YEARS AGO REACHED.—Our city cotton buyers informed us that on yesterday the cotton quotation in Liverpool was lower than it has been since the year 1855, thirty-one years ago. The Liverpool quotation yesterday for February and March contracts was 4 45-64 d. The general tendency of cotton for the past few seasons has been downward, and there is no indication that there will be any improvement in next season's price. It is a good thing that many of our farmers are turning their attention to the cultivation of a little tobacco and more wheat, oats and corn, in addition to cotton. The tobacco market to be opened in Charlotte is destined to prove a great help to our farmers.—Charlotte Observer.

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